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ABSTRACT

This book is comprised of seven annotated regional resource guides to selected print and nonprint materials for grades K-8. Each regional bibliography is divided into state sections identifying materials that relate to the history, culture, geography, resources, industries, literature and lore, and famous figures of the states in the region. This volume concentrates on the Plains states. The materials included offer young people a deeper understanding of the histories and contemporary cultures of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Functioning as a selection tool for reader guidance, this volume identifies approximately 100 items that are set in or focus on each of the states commonly associated with the Great Plains. Quality children's literature set in or about Iowa is numerous. Sources of Iowa folklore and legends, however, are few. Information of farming and farm life in Iowa is particularly strong, but little has been written for children on Iowa and the arts. While there exists a wide range of historical fiction materials about Kansas, this state is sometimes depicted in the literature only in relation to plagues of grasshoppers and numerous tornadoes. Contemporary fiction about Kansas for all age audiences is particularly weak. There are many literary greats associated with Missouri, but very little contemporary fiction for children is set in Missouri. An interesting selection of materials makes up the available children's literature on the state of Nebraska. Historical resources are numerous but information on contemporary Nebraska is harder to locate for younger audiences. Numerous quality materials on Native Americans are included for North Dakota. Frontier and pioneer life on the plains is the dominant theme of historical literature on South Dakota. (DK)



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